

Mr. President, I rise to offer an amendment to ~~strike~~ ^{substitute} a section of the bill S. 3526 which I believe is unwise and goes far beyond either the intent or the jurisdiction of the Foreign Relations Committee. It is a provision which would prevent the United States Government from providing any assistance to foreign governments in the field of information. It applies to all government agencies, prohibiting any of them from directly or indirectly preparing or assisting in preparing for dissemination, or disseminating, information of any kind for, on behalf of, or in the name of a foreign government.

The committee was apparently concerned about the activities of the U. S. Information Agency in southeast Asia. These activities were begun during previous administrations. USIA assisted the information services of the governments of the Indochinese States and Thailand. But the Agency has testified that they have discontinued this effort and that present USIA policy is that such activities should be the responsibility of the governments concerned. To the extent that the bill is directed against USIA operations in southeast Asia, it addresses a situation which no longer exists.

However, it will have an adverse impact on other agencies and activities which promote American ^{domestic and foreign} interests and which should be continued. Since World War II our government has provided information assistance

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to foreign governments as a constructive and relatively inexpensive part of foreign policy. In addition, of course, it has served our own ^{domestic} foreign policy interests when other governments were in a position to communicate to their people matters about which our government was concerned, or which were matters of international policy, such as the current efforts on narcotics control and ecology.

In post war Europe we provided advice and, in some cases, media materials to governments which received Marshall Plan aid and which supported our foreign policy objectives. Following the Marshall Plan period, the U. S. on occasion responded to requests of a small number of developing nations for assistance with their own information program. This assistance was carefully tailored to provide support for our overall foreign policy goals and was designed to encourage a stable and peaceful political evolution. It was provided only for limited periods of time and for limited objectives.

The sweeping language of section 205 would either prohibit or seriously impair the further dissemination of information which is now routinely passed between federal agencies and foreign public and private agencies to serve mutual interests in such fields as welfare, commerce and security. In reaching well beyond the intent of the original Informational and Cultural Exchange Act, section 205 would prohibit or impair the

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further dissemination of information dealing with the following areas of concern to our government, both domestically and as they relate to foreign policy:

a. Narcotics

Section 205 would prohibit dissemination of information to foreign public agencies for further dissemination of information concerning detection, controls, seizures and prosecutions which have a direct impact on our domestic drug problem. Foreign narcotics control activities such as the preparation of training materials based on US-supplied information for use in police anti-drug divisions, would be seriously hampered. Further, Federal agencies would be prohibited from disseminating information received from a foreign country for the purpose of apprehending or extraditing for that foreign country a fugitive drug pusher who has sought refuge in the United States. It would seem that such a prohibition would also be contrary to treaty obligations.

b. Family Planning

Section 205 would also prohibit the dissemination of information to foreign public agencies and impair the use of information by foreign private agencies concerning methods to achieve planned population growth and advanced methods of curtailing uncontrolled birth rates.

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c. Police Matters

Section 205 would prohibit the dissemination of information to foreign police agencies for further dissemination concerning international crimes and criminals, extradition matters, and law enforcement techniques. Such prohibition would also appear to be an abrogation of U. S. treaty responsibilities.

d. Ecology

Section 205 would prohibit the dissemination of information to foreign public agencies for further dissemination concerning violations of environmental protective agreements, management of natural resources development, and techniques to help minimize or redress ecological damage.

e. Education, Including Peace Corps Contributions

Section 205 would prohibit the dissemination of information to foreign public agencies for further dissemination and impair the dissemination of information to foreign private agencies which are designed to improve the effectiveness of educational systems.

f. Health

Section 205 would prohibit the dissemination of information to foreign public agencies for further dissemination concerning international health problems, epidemics and other indigenous health

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problems in foreign countries, and the overall use and development of medicines and techniques in improving the health of populations.

g. Commerce

Section 205 would prohibit the United States Travel Service from providing information to foreign public agencies and impair its effectiveness with foreign private agencies for the further dissemination of information, materials, texts, and photos designed to encourage travel to the United States.

There are many other illustrations falling into such areas as disarmament goals, atomic energy, military aid, insurgency, agricultural affairs, international money matters, and international law, which could also be affected by this provision.

I doubt very much that the sweeping language used in section 205 would have been favorably reported by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had the points I have touched upon been covered in hearings before that committee when this legislation was being considered. I am unaware of the depth of the committee's hearings on this matter.

Clearly, section 205 goes beyond the scope of S. 3526, which I understand to be an authorization measure for the Department of State, USIA, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and the Peace Corps. Moreover, the ramifications of section 205, as I have illustrated, are

clearly outside the purview of the Information and Educational Exchange Act.

In addition to the above, this bill would have one other undesirable result. The second section requires attribution by the particular government agency of any product it disseminates overseas. I have already indicated how this requirement could impair the effectiveness of our Government's cooperation with foreign private agencies on matters concerning our commerce, health and welfare.

The requirement that attribution be placed at the beginning of the material would seriously diminish the effectiveness of materials which this government might want to have distributed abroad and would require new printing of those which we do attribute, either by a specific government agency or the U. S. Government in general, either at the beginning or the end of the document. The bill would apply to all material distributed, including copies of historical documents, political science tracts, information about law enforcement, international police work, ecology, health and population control, and travel service promotion. These are things which obviously the U. S. Government has no interest in hiding, but whether the specific attribution may be printed in the right place or say exactly the right thing and can be accomplished within the time established in this bill, which would be the time of passage, is difficult to ascertain and it could result in unnecessary and unwarranted expense to the Treasury.

In one special respect this provision could have a most undesirable

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effect on USIA's operations. USIA assists foreign television producers who want to come to the United States and make films about our country. The Agency lends its studios, provides stock footage as desired, and facilitates travel, interviews and filming by the foreign television crews. Many of these products are valuable in correcting distortions about life in the United States which are so prevalent abroad. As evidence of the distortions and a description of some of the work USIA is doing to correct them, I request permission to insert in the Record the series by Mr. Merrill Panitt, editor of TV Guide, which recently appeared in that publication. Mr. Panitt's analysis is startling, but that his report is all too true is confirmed by any of us who have had an opportunity to see how our nation is represented on television screens in other countries. I think we would all agree, indeed foreign visitors to the United States do agree, that the best remedy for some of the false impressions people overseas have about our country is to expose more of the broad reality of life here to television viewers abroad. That is what USIA, with its programs of facilitative assistance to foreign television producers, is trying to do. The problem posed by this bill, however, arises from the fact that in most instances foreign television networks are government-owned and government-operated. If the bill passes with this restrictive provision, a question could be raised whether USIA would be able to

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° continue to give the foreign government television networks the help that they request from the Agency.

The amendment I have proposed to section 205 I believe is consistent with the legislative activities of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and properly confines the informational restrictions of the section to those carried out under the authority of the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948.

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Attachment A -- Suggested Floor Statement to Amend Section 205

Attachment B -- Suggested Amendment of Section 205

Attachment C -- Section 205 as reported out by Senate Foreign Relations

15 May
Ablard's suggested floor statement
(w/LLM's changes) - Att. A